

Parish Nurse Programs by Sharon Hinton, RN, MSN, FCN

A parish-faith community nurse (FCN) is not just a nurse in the church! Parish-faith community nurses are trusted healthcare experts who walk with one foot in the medical world and the other foot in the everyday life of the people they serve. Parish-faith community nursing is a specialty practice where registered nurses (RN) work in partnership with clergy in a church setting to serve a congregation and the surrounding community. Experienced RNs attend additional training to provide customized wholistic care of body, mind and spirit that is appropriate for the faith beliefs of a particular congregation. FCNs are found in all major Christian denominations and religions. A few of the many roles include health educator, health advocate, resource & referral for health services, coordinator of health advocate volunteers, health coach, and clergy health advisor. Examples of programs provided include support groups, health and wellness education, home/hospital visitation and coordination of care, parenting classes, how to age well programs, understanding diabetes, blood pressure checks, and flu shot clinics. FCNs work with a health committee to plan services for the congregation and community. Health ministry is a powerful tool for community outreach and youth involvement as volunteers. Your congregation has many valuable assets in the talents of its members! For more information contact Sharon T. Hinton (806)983-8096, sth.rnr@door.net or visit these websites www.gbgm-umc.org/parishnursing , www.parishnurses.org , www.HMAssoc.org or contact the national office of your denomination.